BO TALES

Vol. 9, No. 3 The Newsletter of the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc. July/Aug/Sept 2000

Just When You Think You've Seen It All

by Bill Fivaz

While at a local coin show this past weekend, a dealer who has a few hobo nickels showed me a rather unusual one he had just purchased. I thought it was so unusual that I asked if I could borrow it to photograph and write it up for BO TALES.

As you can see from the photo, it is a fairly well done example, but there's a "chunk" out of the obverse! There is also a long scratch across the face on the obverse and several more on the reverse.

The thing that intrigued me about this coin is that it's a counterfeit, but it doesn't stop there. The obverse appears to be made of a very soft metal, probably lead, but the Type 1 reverse gives every appearance of being a legitimate 75% copper/25% nickel product as it has an entirely different color, although not discernable in the photos.

A check of the edge shows clearly that two different pieces were sealed together, but the "coppery" color that is bleeding through around the reverse rim and on the high points of the reverse (the hip and flank under-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MODERN HOBO NICKELS REPORT

Modern hobo nickels are gaining in popularity on eBay Internet auctions. Just recently a Sam Alfano carving of a gold-toothed waif sold for $585.00. A great carving of a pirate by Cinco de Arturo sold for $315.00. And gaining is Arthur Hutchison, Jr. (or "Hutches") whose nice partial cameo copy of Bo's RR cop design sold for $177.50. Average to Above Average old hobo nickels are selling for about $100 to $250 on eBay. High Above Average to Superior old hobo nickels rarely sold for over $350.00 on eBay, until recently. A satirical carving of a Pope on a 1913 nickel just sold for $651.26 on a reduced bid.

There seems to be many hobo nickel collectors active on Internet auctions who probably don't know about us. So any OHNS members selling hobo nickels on the Internet, please put in a plug for OHNS. Thanks to those who already have.

OHNS AUTHENTICATION FEES

The fee for submitting only one hobo nickel for authentication may be increasing soon. The long-time $15.00 fee no longer covers our cost of mailing the coin twice (or possibly three times) via Registered Mail (due to rate increases), photography, copying forms, and other mailings.

So beginning next year (pending Board approval), the fee for a single coin submission may be raised to $20.00 (for secure Registered mailings), and stay at $15.00 for those opting for less secure Insured mailings. Plus an extra $1.10 for each $100.00 insurance over $100.00, or an extra $1.10 for Registered mail with insurance over $100 to $500.

Fees remain the same for multiple coin submissions.

HOBO NICKEL GUIDEBOOK

Work has progressed rapidly over the summer on a *Hobo Nickel Guidebook* to be published by OHNS. A first draft has been written. But much work remains in obtaining and organizing the hundreds of photos of hobo nickels to be illustrated in the book. The Guidebook covers who how and why hobo nickels were made, explains the Quality Designations (Crude to Superior), discusses factors affecting the desirability and value of hobo nickels, has a biographical gallery of the best known named and nicknamed hobo nickel artists both old and modern, tells how to recognize a modern hobo nickel, covers fakes and hobo tokens, and illustrates many hobo nickels from past OHNS auctions with Quality Designations and hammer prices, plus a handy glossary.

It is too early to take orders now. Watch for announcements in future issues of *Bo Tales* or in a special mailing to OHNS members.

NICK IS BORED

No questions were submitted for the ASK NICK column which debuted last issue. If you have nothing to ask, maybe you have some information to share? If so, write an article for *Bo Tales*. It's your publication, and we need more input from members. Any members who are currently making hobo nickels, let us know about yourself and your creations, if your story hasn't appeared in *Bo Tales* yet. Send your articles to the Editor; send Ask Nick questions to me (see last issue).

I hope to see many of you in Orlando in January at the FUN show and OHNS meeting and auction. The final issue of *Bo Tales* for this year will the auction catalogue.

Steve "The Big One" Alpert

Correction

Greetings, Steve. I was so pleased to see Sam Alfano featured in the Spring 2000 issue of Bo Tales. He truly is a gifted artist on many fronts!!!

As I read the article, I noticed that there is one comment that needs correction. While it is true that Sam's first carving was that of a Cajun fisherman, the character's name is COOTER JACK, not Elmo Thibideaux. Cooter Jack is carved on the obverse as well as having an amusing transformation of the bison on the reverse into a fish swimming amid some sea grass!!! However, Elmo Thibideaux is the first Hobo piece with gold inlaid to the hatband.

As you personally know this particular piece, you can surely appreciate his craftsmanship!

Just wanted to keep the genealogy of this branch of the Hobo family tree clear. I look forward to seeing this special branch grow and blossom. I am very happy to be one of the 'tenders' of the roots. His work is certainly something to ' bark ' about!!!

Please publish the correction in the next edition of Bo Tales.

Vagabondly,
"CEEBO" # 408

This correction was forwarded by Email to Mr. Sam Alfano for comment, but no comments were received (*editor*).

Seen It All... continued from page 1

neath it, the tail, the buffalo's horn and on "CENTS") tell us that it is not a legit reverse. Whoever manufactured the false dies for this piece was good, believe me!

The "chunk" that has fallen away on the obverse is simply a portion of the lead or whatever metal was used that failed to bond properly and got lost over time. The reverse is slightly rotated, but not to the extent that we usually see on this type of forgery.

OHNS now has a Librarian

OHNS is forming a lending library for our members, with Roger Wollam as our Librarian. Mr. Wollam was one of the volunteers for the librarian position requested in the last issue of ***Bo Tales,*** and the board voted in his favor.

Any members who wish to donate books, periodicals, music tapes and CDs, and videotapes related to hobo nickels and hoboes may do so now. Please send all library material to:

Roger E. Wollam (LM12)
3191 Wayside Terrace
Salem, OR 97303
phone 503-585-0269
email: ullmr@uswest.com

Hobo Bread is a cake made in coffee can

Regarding a letter from D.E.B. for "Cake in a Can" is also known as Hobo Bread. It's not a typical yeast-type bread; it's more like a dark brown yummy cake. Our family was introduced to it by friends who take it to camp, making it ahead in coffee cans. Enclosed is our recipe.

W.B. Falmouth

HOBO BREAD

4 teaspoons baking soda
2 cups boiling water
2 cups dark raisins
4 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons oil

Mix baking soda and water and pour over raisins. Let stand overnight without stirring. Next morning, sift flour, sugar and salt together and stir into raisin mixture with a spoon. Add oil and continue mixing with spoon. Batter will be thick. Grease and flour 3 one-pound coffee cans and put 1/3 of the batter into each can, leaving top open for baking (cans will be about half full). Bake at 350 for a half-hour, reduce to 325 for another half-hour.

Near end, cover cans with foil to prevent over-browning. Remove from oven after testing; lay cans on sides and turn occasionally to loosen bread. Delicious with cream cheese, fruit salad or hot buttered with beans and ham.

Reprinted from an unknown newspaper *Dear Write to Know* column that was forwarded to Gail K.

Bo Tales Publishing Schedule

The schedule is dependent on the timely submittal of articles AND the demands of my family and job. We will attempt to stay close to the publishing schedule below:

Issue	Deadline for Submitting Articles	Publish Date
Auction Catalog	October 15, 2000	December 2000
Bo Tales Vol. 10, No. 1	February 5, 2001	March 2001
Bo Tales Vol. 10, No. 2	May 5, 2001	June 2001
Bo Tales Vol. 10, No. 3	August 5, 2001	September 2001

Please submit your articles as soon as you can to:
Roman Luzecky, 5 Melody Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-1526

HOBO HODGEPODGE

by Stephen P. Alpert, OHNS LM-10

"FLAT NOSE" QUIZ

Remember the early hobo nickel maker nicknamed "Flat Nose" in the last issue of *Bo Tales*? Take this test - see if you can find the hobo nickel by "Flat Nose" among the 20 hobo nickels on page 44 of Joyce Ann Romines' *The Hobo Nickel* book. If you're stumped, go back and look up "Flat Nose" in last issue's column.

As I write this in early September, a "Flat Nose" hobo nickel is currently being auctioned on eBay. The seller guesses it depicts an "African Traveler Muslim."

Two more nicknamed prolific early hobo nickel makers are introduced below.

INTRODUCING "DAPPER"

I've selected the nickname "Dapper" for this unknown early hobo nickel artist because his works depict a well dressed and spruced up man with a neat, short, trim beard, mustache and hair. Three "Dapper" hobo nickels are illustrated (Figures 1 to 3).

Figure 1

The specific diagnostic characteristics that identify a hobo nickel by "Dapper" are:

1. A simple hat, with a very long, slightly curved, narrow hat brim, which extends to the coin's border at each sharply-pointed end. There may be no hat band, a simple hat band, or a decorated hat band, with no bow.
2. The punched or chiseled hair, beard, and mustache are neatly trimmed. There is a triangular projection of hair, from the beard, onto the cheek, that points toward the eye.
3. There is a simple two-part collar: an upper wider plain band, and a lower narrower band that may be decorated. A large single triangular flap is at the front of the collar. There are no features added on the coat-shoulder area below the collar.

Figure 2

Figure 3

4. The ear is narrow. It may extend over the hat brim.
5. The profile is unaltered.
6. The neck, dome of the hat, and field behind the head are fairly well dressed or textured.
7. "Dapper's" works appear to be on early-dated buffalo nickels.

INTRODUCING "TUFTY"

I've nicknamed this prolific early hobo nickel maker "Tufty" because of the small tuft of hair that appears on his works, on the front of the forehead below the hat brim. Two "Tufty" hobo nickels are illustrated (Figures 4 and 5). The diagnostic characteristics of a hobo nickel by "Tufty" are:

continued on page 5

Hodgepodge... continued from page 4

Figure 4

1. The isolated tuft of hair on the forehead below the hat brim.
2. A strongly curved hat brim, with a parallel, equally wide, plain hat band.
3. A large ear, with a very wide outer part, and a smaller central depression. The shape of the ear may vary.
4. The coin is totally carved.
5. The collar consists of a single, broad, chiseled, band-like groove, with some bold notches at the front, and to the right of the date.
6. The profile is slightly altered, at the top of the nose.
7. The dome of the hat, the neck, and the field behind the head are fairly well dressed.
8. All known "Tufty" pieces are on 1913 nickels.

Figure 5

Figure 6

For illustrations of additional hobo nickels by "Tufty," see lot 26 of the January 1996 OHNS auction. And in Joyce Romines' book, see page 44 (far left column, third coin down) and page 45 (far right column, second coin down).

A HOBO NICKEL BY AL NALICK

Early hobo nickels signed by the artist with a first and last name are rare. The reverse of this nickel (Figure 6) reads BY (above the buffalo) AL NALICK (on the buffalo). Each letter is formed by dash-like punches.

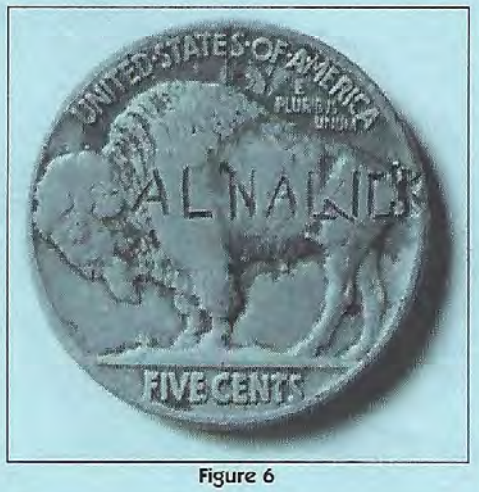


Figure 6

I have no knowledge of who Al Nalick was, and I haven't found or seen another hobo nickel by him yet. He appears to have been a somewhat competent average hobo nickel artist, but no great talent, as you can see (Figure 6). He had to squeeze in the K on the reverse as he didn't plan well on the space needed for his name.

The obverse of his nickel has a simple hat high on the head, an irregular ear, the hair-beard-mustache formed by chiseled zigzag lines; there is a simple high shirt collar, and a coat collar.

Figure 7

continued on page 6

Hodgepodge... continued from page 4

HOBO CIGARS

Large novelty Hobo Cigars were sold circa the 1950s and 1960s. Illustrated (Figure 8) is the cardboard (actual size 10 x 4 inches) atop the plastic bag containing one

Figure 8

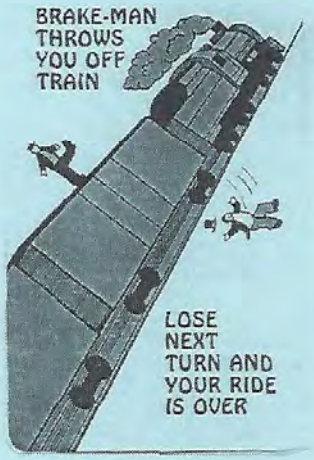
such cigar (9 inches long, made of a thin waxed plastic). Talcum powder inside provides the "smoke" when the cigar is squeezed. Such hobo cigars occasionally appear on eBay Internet auctions.

HOBO CARD GAME

I recently purchased this HOBO card game on eBay. The 3.5 x 4.5 inch box is illustrated. Inside are two decks of cards (54 cards in each, colored red-black-white; one deck is still sealed). Unfortunately the instructions were not present, so I do not know how the game is played. Apparently there is no playing board.

The game was issued by Mind Over Matter (MOM) Games in 1987, rather late for a hobo-related product. Even the box refers to the hobo's pending extinction from society.

The cards relate to the life of a hobo: earning money from jobs, obtaining food, traveling, and encounters with the law and other hoboes. Some of the cards are illustrated here. The bold HOBO design is the common back.



See more cards on page 7

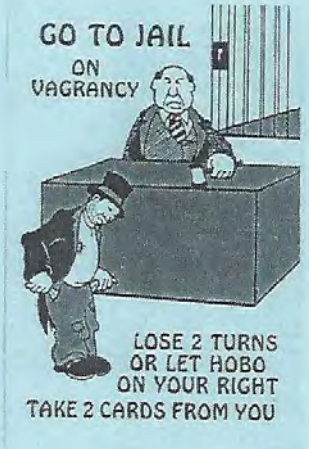
AUCTION 2001 UPDATE

The *Original Hobo Nickel Society* will have their annual auction of Hobo nickels and related material at the 2001 F.U.N. Convention in Orlando, FL on Saturday, January 6, 2001.

It appears that this will be the largest ever, with over 125 lots!

Catalogues should be in the members hands in early December. If a member doesn't receive one by Dec. 15th, please have them call or fax me at (770) 396-6125.

Bill Fivaz



Dues...It's That Time Again!

The year is coming to a close, and those who are paid through the end of the year 2000 will need to re-submit dues to continue receiving member privileges next year. Please check your mailing label. The "Paid Through Year" is on the far right of the label on the top line after your name. If your label says "2000" then your membership ends at the end of this year. Please submit dues according to the following choices:

LIFE membership	$250
Five years regular membership: Through 2005 (*Save $$*)	$ 40
Three years regular membership: Through 2003 (*Save $*)	$ 25
One year regular membership: Through 2001	$ 10
Junior Membership: Through 2001 (only available yearly)	$ 5

(Junior Members must be under 19 years of age. This membership is a reduced rate with full member privileges including all mailings.)

Associate Membership Through 2001 (only available yearly)	$ 5

(Associate Members can be any member of the same household with a Regular or LIFE member. Associate members have member privileges, but do not receive a separate copy of BoTales)

Please include your mailing label, with any address changes noted. Make check payable to "Original Hobo Nickel Society" and send to:

OHNS, P.O. Box 54583, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0583

If you are renewing as a Junior member, please indicate your age for our records. If you are not renewing, or if you have questions or concerns, please drop us a line or send an email with feedback. It is important to the OHNS board to know how we can continue to serve our members better.

Submitted by Jeff "Diamond Jim" Daniher, Secretary (daniher@yahoo.com

NEW Members

As of January 2000

Member Date	Name	State	Number
1/1/00	Rita Jen Sledz	MI	571
1/1/00	Steve Hoover	FL	574
1/1/00	Carol Harmes	FL	576
1/1/00	Don Charters	MI	578
1/5/00	Arthur Hutchison	MS	566
1/5/00	Bill Gailey	FL	569
1/5/00	Barb Eck	MI	570
1/5/00	Robert Shalowitz	OH	572
1/5/00	David Litrenta	PA	573
1/10/00	Ralph Stevens	UT	568
1/15/00	Cliff Gabard	CA	575
1/27/00	Curt Barlow	DE	580
2/1/00	James Shaw	CA	579
2/19/00	Sam Deep	PA	582
2/20/00	Albert Hal	IL	583
2/23/00	Kira Delfavero	MI	577
2/24/00	Marc Madow	CA	581
3/6/00	Tom Stepanski	NY	584
3/14/00	James Pommerening	CA	586
3/31/00	Joseph Raimond	NY	585
4/5/00	Mike Hakala	WI	588
4/7/00	Alex Macievich	CA	589
4/24/00	Larry Ivers	CA	587
4/27/00	Henry Salvione	NY	567
5/1/00	Matthew Vaznaian	RI	590
5/5/00	Sam Alfano	LA	594
5/8/00	Merlin Peterson	CO	592
5/10/00	Ford Smith	MT	591
6/14/00	Raymond Castello	CA	593
6/15/00	Norm Froderman	IN	595
6/15/00	Dennis Deeser	OH	596
7/1/00	Mike Tevis	TX	597
7/10/00	Ray Phillip	OH	598
8/5/00	William Jameson	KY	599
8/7/00	Fred Schornstein	NY	601
9/6/00	Gary Johnson	KS	600

Fred says he still has the following material ready to ship to any member who hasn't ordered yet. Also, the hobo tokens by Ron Landis are great additions to your collection... take advantage of their availability now and get a complete set.

- 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000 Hobo Tokens by Ron Landis $10.00 each

*The following back issues of BO TALES and Auction catalogues with prices realized are also available to members (number in parenthesis is the # of copies available). BO TALES issues are $3.50 ea. and Auction Catalogues are $4.00 ea.

Auction Catalogs	*Bo-Tales*	
Jan. 95 (20)	Fall 93(3)	Dec. 96 (12)
Jan. 96 (30)	Winter 93 (1)	April 97 (25)
Aug. 96 (20)	April 94 (4)	Aug. 97 (25)
Jan. 97 (30)	Feb. 95 (2)	Dec. 97 (15)
Jan. 98 (150)	July 95 (20)	May 98 (15)
Jan. 00 (40)	Dec. 95 (25)	Aug. 98 (50)
	April 96 (12)	Jul/Aug/Sept 99 (5)

Order should be sent to: Fred Benson, 9862 Hawthorn Glen, Grosse Ile, MI 48138. Please make checks payable to OHNS!

Photos of the available tokens are shown here to entice you!

1996

1996 Reverse

1999

1998

1999-2000 Reverse

2000

THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 54583 • CINCINNATI, OH 45254-0583

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

☐ Please enroll me as a member in the Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc. as indicated.

☐ Please renew my membership (member number _____) as indicated.

☐ 5 years @ $40 ☐ 3 years @ $25 ☐ 1 year @10

☐ Life @ $250 ☐ Youth under 19 @ $5 ☐ Associate @ $5 (no mailings)

I am also enclosing a donation of _____ **for the OHNS Scholarship program.**

Name: _____ Moniker (Nickname): _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

I agree to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics.

_____ _____

Signature of Candidate Sponsor's Name

OHNS Advertisement Policy and Rates

1. Prices quoted are for camera ready display copy.
2. Graphic layout and design @ $25 per hour is available.
3. Pictures or graphics are encouraged.
4. Payment in full must be submitted with ads. Make checks payable to: Original Hobo Nickel Society.
5. All ads must be related to Hobo Nickels or associated materials or subject matter.
6. Dealers must adhere to our Code of Ethics.

Numismatic flyers can be inserted and mailed with Bo Tales for as little as $150.

	Annual -4 Publications	Single Issue - Bo Tales	Single - Auction Catalogue
Full Page	$225.00	$100.00	$125.00
Full Page w/Cover	$250.00	XX	XX
Half Page Ad	$150.00	$75.00	$100.00
Quarter Page Ad	$100.00	$50.00	$75.00
Inside Cover	XX	XX	$175.00

THE ORIGINAL HOBO NICKEL SOCIETY, INC.

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HOBO NICKEL AUTHENTICATION SUBMISSION FORM

Submissions will be reviewed by at least two authenticators who will give independent opinions on the originality, type, method(s), artist, condition and quality of the carving. Each coin will be photographed and described. Carvings considered to be original (not modern) will be registered and numbered. **Please submit one form with *each* coin to one of the following authenticators:**

Bill Fivaz
P.O. Box 888660
Dunwoody, GA 30356-0660

Steve Alpert
P.O. Box 66331
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Owner's Name: _____ OHNS Membership # _____

Address _____

Owner's value of coin **(this information is necessary for insurance)**: $ _____

Members: $15.00 per coin* ***or*** ten or more coins - $12.50 per coin* **Non-Members:** $25.00 per coin*
*Includes postage and insurance up to $100.00. *If you desire additional insurance, indicate the amount and include the additional cost.*

I understand that the opinions rendered are strictly that, opinions, and are not a guarantee that the item is genuine. It is however, the best considered judgement by qualified specialists in the area, but others may reach different conclusions.

☐ I authorize OHNS to use a photograph of this coin. ☐ I authorize OHNS to use my name (not address).

_____ _____
Signature of Submitter Date

Please make all checks payable to:
Original Hobo Nickel Society

Your Board

President ..... Steve Alpert
Vice President ..... Archie Taylor
Secretary ..... Jeff Daniher
Treasurer ..... James Taylor
Board of Directors ..... Gail Baker
Fred Benson
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